

California Department of Aging

Linkages Program Narrative

Older Californians Act Community-Based Services Program

Program / Element / Component -- 40.90.50

Description

The Linkages Program is a care management program which serves frail older adults and adults with functional impairments who are at risk of being placed in an institutional setting. Linkages professionals, known as care managers, link their clients to services that assist them to remain independent in their own communities. There is usually a waiting list for services. Services available through the Linkages Program fill the gaps for individuals who are not eligible for other care management services, such as those offered through the Departments of Developmental Services, Mental Health, and Rehabilitation. Linkages staff are expected to use the individual's family, other informal support networks, and existing community services to their fullest capacity. If other resources are unavailable, the Linkages Program has available limited funds to purchase some one-time assistance.

The amended State Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10 eliminated the equivalent of nine months of Older Californians Act (OCA) State General Fund (GF) for the Linkages Program in FY 2009-10 and all future GF. However, the statutory authority for the Program continues under the OCA.

Benefits

A Linkages Program care manager is assigned to each individual and completes a thorough in-home assessment. The care manager works with the client and the family or friends involved in their care. The care manager develops a care plan for the individual's approval that seeks to enhance the person's strengths and address their needs. The care manager may link the person to a variety of community services, such as transportation to medical appointments, home-delivered meals, homemaker and personal care, and caregiver support. Linkages staff also help the client to obtain various devices, including ramps, hand-held showerheads, and nutritional supplements. Staff contacts the client regularly and followsup to ensure the services and products are satisfactory to the individual.

Eligibility

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| <i>Income</i> | No income criteria. |
| <i>Age</i> | 18 and older. |
| <i>Other</i> | To be eligible for the Linkages Program, a client must be an adult with functional impairments. Individuals must have the need for assistance in at least two activities of daily living, such as transportation, housework, dressing, or bathing. They must live in an area served by the Linkages Program and be willing to participate. |

Access

Information on the Linkages Program can be obtained through the statewide toll-free Senior Information Line at **1-800-510-2020** and the California Department of Aging website at www.aging.ca.gov.

Current State Fiscal Year Funding Information (2010-11)

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| <i>Source</i> | State GF, local funds, in-kind contributions. The amended State Budget for FY 2009-10 eliminated the equivalent of nine months of OCA GF for the Linkages Program in FY 2009-10 and all future GF. |
| <i>Allocation Formula</i> | CDA distributes OCA Community-Based Services Program (CBSP) allocations uniformly to the AAAs, except when a specific allocation has been established through the legislative process. |
| <i>Match Requirements</i> | N/A |
| <i>Other Funding Information</i> | Allocated Linkages funds can be transferred to other CBSPs. AAAs can choose not to fund/administer the Linkages Program. |
| <i>Funding Cycle</i> | July 1 – June 30 |